

# ALLEN



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



ALLEN  
PARISH

# Allen Parish

**Allen Parish Tourist  
Commission**  
P.O. Box 400  
Oberlin, LA 70655  
337-639-4315

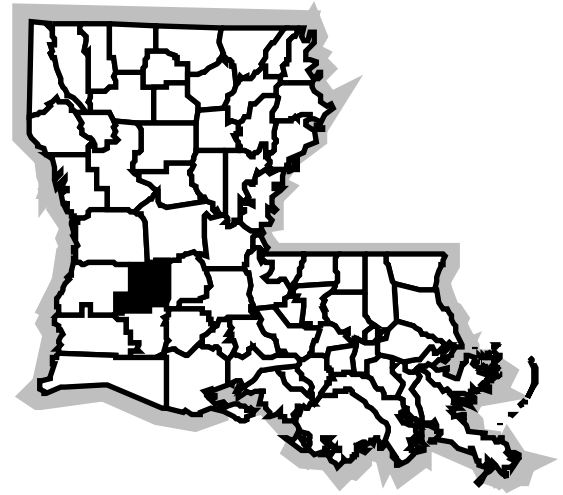
**Regional Office of  
Public Health**  
Howard Dohn Alexander  
Regional Administrator  
Southwest Regional  
Office  
4240 Senator J.  
Bennett Johnston Ave.  
Lake Charles, LA  
70615  
337-491-2040  
337-491-2041 fax

## History<sup>1</sup>

On June 12, 1912, Allen Parish was formed from the parish of Calcasieu. Named after Henry Watkins Allen, famous Confederate governor of Louisiana during the Civil War, it and Jefferson Davis Parish are the newest parishes in the state. At one time it was important as a great lumber producing region. Timber is still the major resource.

## Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

Allen Parish, Gateway to Southwest Louisiana, is traversed by the spring-fed waters of the Calcasieu and Whiskey Chitto rivers, which offer some of the best canoeing in the state. For the hunter or bird watcher, West Bay Wildlife Management Area is open year round, and visitors can enjoy overnight camping at Little Piney Park located near the historic sawmill town of Elizabeth. Like Louisiana seasonings, Allen's potpourri of cultures is celebrated at Oberlin's Cajun Rendezvous, the Kinderfest, Oakdale's Springfest and Great Louisiana Cook-off, Elizabeth's Country Christmas, and the Coushatta Indian Reservation. Allen's pioneer flavor can be savored at Grant's Syrup-Making Mill and Christmas Tree Farm, West Bay Peach Farm, or Gamble's Muscadine Vineyards. Lovers of Louisiana flora can stroll the shaded paths of Fuller-Edwards Arboretum in the heart of Oakdale, while the Parish Courthouse in the Centennial City of Oberlin beckons the admirers of early Louisiana architecture.



**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Oberlin<sup>1</sup>

## Major Cities (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

Oakdale  
1990 ..... 6,832  
1997 (estimate) ..... 7,881

## Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 ..... 21,266  
1997 (estimate) ..... 24,079

## Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White ..... 73%  
African American ..... 25%  
Other ..... 2%  
Male ..... 55%  
Female ..... 45%



Population age 0-4 .....	6%
Population age 65 & over .....	12%

### Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	75 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	764.6
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	1.1

### Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	68°
January .....	54°
July .....	81°
Annual average rainfall .....	74.6 in.

### Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian .....	8,650
Employed .....	7,790
Unemployed .....	860
Unemployment .....	9.9%

### Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Timber, rice and soybeans; plywood plant, sawmills and sulphate paper company.

### Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

Louisiana College, Pineville

Louisiana State University, Alexandria

Louisiana State University, Eunice

McNeese State University, Lake Charles

### Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 3

#### References

<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA

<sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lde.state.la.us>

<sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>

### Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade	6.8%
High school graduate or higher	57.1%
Some college or higher	19.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.7%

### Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

<b>Private Employers</b>	
Boise Cascade Corporation (Plywood)	340
Oakdale Community Hospital (Medical)	153
Wal-Mart (Discount retailer)	114
<b>Public Employers</b>	
Allen Parish Schools (Education)	610
Federal Detention Center (Government)	322
Federal Correctional Institution (Government)	305

### Poverty and Income

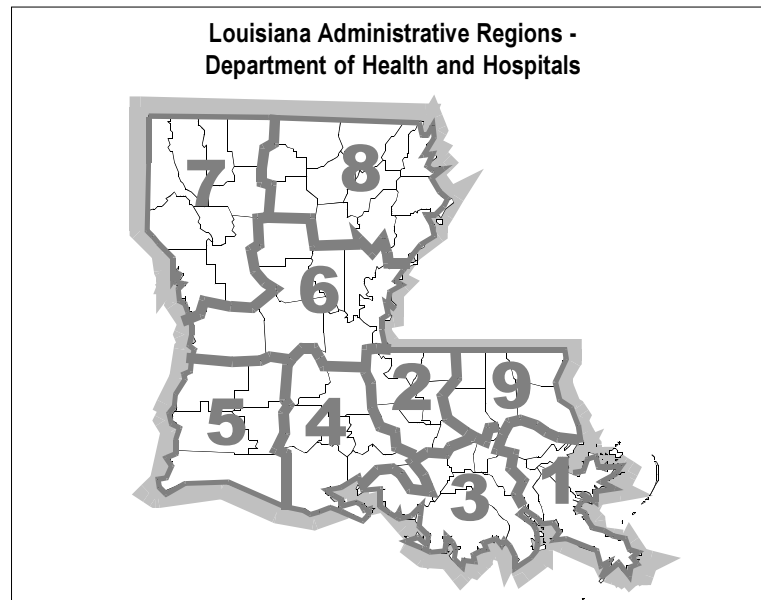
Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	26.2%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	33.0%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$13,516

<sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



**Region 1**

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

**Region 2**

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

**Region 3**

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

**Region 4**

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

**Region 5**

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

**Region 6**

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

**Region 7**

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

**Region 8**

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

**Region 9**

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington